

### HANDLING INDICATOR

RETAIN OR DESTROY

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FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
SUBJECT United States Policy Toward Cuba

Department understands that Fidel Castro recently sent "long letter" to President Nkrumah of Ghana on U.S. policy toward Cuba, and may have sent similar letters to other Afro-Asian governments. Dept. believes following summary of U.S. position on Cuba may be useful in your contacts with government officials, press and public.

The United States quickly recognized the Castro Government after the overthrow of the dictatorial Batista regime in January 1959, and looked with sympathy upon his promises of political freedom and social justice for the Cuban people. We made every effort to assist the new government in its efforts to carry out its program of economic and social reform. However, the regime in Cuba soon turned against the United States. In July 1960, the denial of U.S. oil at the same price as before was one of the first steps toward economic warfare. The Soviet Union began increasing the pace of its activities against the United States. We did only our best to meet the challenge. In July 1960 and August 1960 we announced that we would no longer supply Cuba with food and medicines and that we would stop selling U.S. goods to Cuba. Relations with the Cuban Government were finally terminated in January 1961 because of Cuban demands which placed crippling limitations on our ability to carry out diplomatic and consular functions in Cuba.

The Cuban regime is a totalitarian communist tyranny and does not represent the will of the Cuban people. All parties except the Communist Party have been suppressed; free elections have not been held; there is no freedom of the press, radio and television; the secret police system and "informer" network is extremely comprehensive; and hundreds of opponents

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Contents and Classification

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of the regime have been shot without fair trial. Many thousands of Castro's original supporters have been executed, are in prison under subhuman conditions, or are in exile. The thousands of people leaving Cuba each month are now increasingly from the middle and lower classes.

On December 2, 1961, at the time that Castro openly espoused Marxism-Leninism, he also admitted that he had imposed government by force and terror.

He stated that the Cuban people are suffering from the consequences of their own self-confessed mistakes.

The recent arrivals in Cuba of large additional numbers of Soviet arms and technicians, which have made Cuba an armed camp, accentuate the already well-advanced process by which the Cuban leaders have deliberately surrendered the independence of their country and have subordinated the well-being of their people to an external power. In alignment with the Communist bloc, the Castro regime has publicly urged the overthrow of free governments elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere, and is actively opposing through subversion and other means the development of the American Republics to political, economic and social development.

During the 16th General Assembly of the United Nations, Cuba voted with the Soviet bloc on almost every major international issue. Cuba's espousal of the communist line at recent conferences in Belgrade and Cairo exposed the emptiness of the Cuban regime's claim that it is non-aligned.

The United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is maintained in accordance with international agreements between the United States and Cuba.

The Base

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To; AF, MEA AND NE POSTS

The Base is important to the defense of the Western Hemisphere, and poses no threat to the sovereignty of Cuba or to the security of the Cuban people.

The United States admires the Cuban patriots involved in the April 1961 landings in Cuba who desired to see a democratic system in an independent Cuba.

There is no evidence of any significant offensive military capability in Cuba. Unilateral military intervention on the part of the U.S. cannot be required or justified. However, if at any time the Communist buildup in Cuba endangers or threatens our security or that of any other part of the hemisphere in any way, the U.S. will do its part, and will join with other countries of this hemisphere, to make sure that the increased armaments which the Soviet Union has furnished Cuba, while a burden to the Cuban people, will be nothing more than that.

Also suggest you refer to President's policy statements September 4 and 13 on Cuba.

End

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